



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Operations Division  
Regulatory Branch

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT  
7400 LEAKE AVENUE  
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70118

### **SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE**

**SUBJECT:** Scoping Meetings for Developing a Draft EIS on the proposed Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion in Plaquemines Parish, LA

Các Cuộc họp Đánh giá nhằm Xây dựng bản Dự thảo EIS cho dự án đề xuất Chuyển dòng Trầm tích vùng Trung Barataria ở Plaquemines Parish, LA

**PERMIT APPLICATION NUMBER:** MVN-2012-2806-EOO (Section 10/404)  
2013-0634 (Section 408)

**APPLICANT:** Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana

**SUMMARY:** The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority of Louisiana (CPRA) has requested permits and permissions from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District (CEMVN) to construct, maintain, and operate the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion (MBSD) off the right descending bank of the Mississippi River, at approximately 60.7 miles above “Head of Passes” in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. To inform these decisions, CEMVN is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the preparation of the EIS, NEPA requires an early and open public process for determining the scope of issues, resources, impacts, and alternatives to be addressed by the EIS; commonly referred to as “scoping”. CEMVN will conduct three scoping meetings to engage members of the public and other interested parties in the development of the EIS. The scoping period to provide comments for the EIS will extend from **July 6, 2017 through September 5, 2017**.

**MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS:** Parties interested in participating in the NEPA process and who would like to learn more about the proposed MBSD project and/or provide comments about the scope of environmental review for the proposed MBSD project are encouraged to attend one of the following meetings.

**Thursday, July 20, 2017**

Leo Kerner City Park  
Multipurpose Complex  
235 City Park Drive  
Lafitte, LA

**Tuesday, July 25, 2017**

Belle Chasse Auditorium  
8398 Highway 23  
Belle Chasse, LA

**Thursday, July 27, 2017**

Port Sulphur Community Center  
278 Civic Drive  
Port Sulphur, LA

**MEETING FORMAT:** Each scoping meeting is scheduled for three hours. Meetings will consist of a 30-minute introductory open house, followed by 30-minutes of NEPA and project related presentations. After the presentations, the open house format will

re-open for two hours. The open house format allows meeting attendees to interact with CEMVN, CPRA and other Federal Agencies to ask questions about the proposed MBSD project and the NEPA process and to make scoping comments.

The scoping meetings will follow the following agenda:

5:00 pm: Open House, opportunity for the public to ask questions and submit scoping comments

5:30 pm: Presentation on the NEPA process and CPRA's proposed MBSD project

6:00 pm: Open House re-opens, opportunity for the public to ask questions and submit scoping comments

8:00 pm: Adjourn

**HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS:** The public and interested parties are encouraged to provide comments for the record and may do so during the scoping period as follows:

- Submit **comment cards** (available at the scoping meetings) and/or **letters** during the scoping meetings and/or by mail to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118.
- Submit comments by **e-mail** at [CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil).
- Provide **verbal comments** to court reporters present at each scoping meeting. Verbal comments provided to court reporters will be limited to three minutes, with additional opportunity to comment again, if time allows.

Informal discussions with agency staff in the open house setting are not official comments. Verbal comments submitted at the scoping meetings must be given to the designated court reporters in order to be part of the official EIS record. You do not have to be present at a meeting to make a comment for the EIS record. All comments made during the scoping period as described above will become part of the record.

**EIS INTENT:** The EIS will inform CEMVN's decision regarding CPRA's request for a Department of Army (DA) permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404), Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10), and permissions under Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 408) for the proposed MBSD project.

In addition to informing CEMVN's permit and permission, the EIS will inform decisions made by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) that may be required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), and any additional regulatory or permit processes that may be required for the proposed MBSD project. The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (NRDA LA TIG) have initiated restoration planning which may include the preparation of a restoration plan that evaluates the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion. To the extent the NRDA LA TIG decides to proceed with a restoration plan including the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, it would rely on this EIS to inform that future restoration plan. Members from

CEMVN, NRDA LA TIG, NOAA Fisheries and CPRA will be available to the public during the open house portions of each scoping meeting.

**INFORMATION FOR REVIEW:** A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the proposed MBSD project was published by CEMVN in the Federal Register on October 4, 2013. A supplemental NOI was published by CEMVN on April 27, 2017. The supplemental NOI provides additional information on the proposed MBSD project and is enclosed with all mailed copies of this public notice. If you are viewing this public notice electronically, the NOI can be found at <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-04-27/pdf/2017-08413.pdf>.

**TRANSLATION OPPORTUNITIES:** Sẽ có dịch tiếng Việt tại tất cả các buổi họp. Vietnamese translation will be available at all meetings. Anyone requiring translation in other languages should contact Ricky Boyett at [ricky.d.boyett@usace.army.mil](mailto:ricky.d.boyett@usace.army.mil) or 504-862-1524.

**ADA ACCESSABILITY:** Anyone requiring accommodations for mobility restrictions should contact Ricky Boyett.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Interested parties unable to attend the scoping meetings can access additional information on the proposed MBSD project at: <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits/Mid-Barataria-Sediment-Diversion-EIS/>.

Questions concerning the Section 10 and Section 404 permit process should be directed to Mr. Brad LaBorde at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Attn: CEMVN-OD-SE #MVN-2012-2806-EOO, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, or by email at [CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil). Questions and comments concerning the Section 408 permission process should be directed to Mr. Brad Inman at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New Orleans District, Attn: CEMVN-PM-P #2013-0634, 7400 Leake Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70118, or by email at [CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil](mailto:CEMVN-Midbarataria@usace.army.mil).

Martin S. Mayer  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosure

## Directions to Scoping Meeting Venues

Thursday, July 20, 2017

### **Leo Kerner City Park Multipurpose Complex**

**235 City Park Drive**

**Lafitte, Louisiana 70067**

The complex is across the street from Leo Kerner Elementary and behind the auditorium.

Directions: While traveling west on the Westbank Expressway, exit to the right on exit 48 toward Barataria Boulevard/Avenue D. Turn left onto LA 45 S/Barataria Boulevard and travel approximately 2.9 miles. Turn left onto LA 1334/ Lafitte Larose Hwy/ Leo Kerner – Lafitte Parkway and travel 6.9 miles. Turn left onto LA 45/ Jean Lafitte Boulevard and travel 3.4 miles. Turn left on to City Park Drive. The Leo Kerner City Park Multipurpose Complex will be on the right, after the Auditorium.

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

### **Belle Chasse Auditorium**

**8398 Highway 23**

**Belle Chasse, Louisiana 70037**

The facility adjoins with Belle Chasse HighSchool.

Directions: While traveling west on the Westbank Expressway, exit to the right on exit 7 toward Lafayette Street. Turn left onto La 23/Lafayette Street and travel approximately 5.9 miles. Belle Chasse Auditorium will be located to the right.

Thursday, July 27, 2017

### **Port Sulphur Community Center**

**278 Civic Drive**

**Port Sulphur, Louisiana 70083**

The facility is behind South Plaquemines High School.

Directions: While traveling west on the Westbank Expressway, exit to the right on exit 7 toward Lafayette Street. Turn left onto La 23/Lafayette Street and travel approximately 42.8 miles. Turn right onto Civic Drive. At the intersection of Civic Drive and School Road, turn right to continue on Civic Drive. After going around the fields of the High School, the Port Sulphur Community Center will be on the right.